

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Brian J. Roberts et al.
Serial No. :
Filed :
For : COUNTER-TOP TICKET DISPENSING DEVICE,
INSTALLATION AND DISPLAYS
Art Unit : 3724
Examiner : Dexter, C.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Please enter the following Preliminary Amendment in the
above-identified U.S. patent application.

IN THE TITLE:

Replace the present title with the following new title:

"COUNTER-TOP TICKET DISPLAY, WRITING STAND AND METHOD"

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 2, line 1, before "continuation" insert ---division
of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/394,660-, filed on
September 13, 1999, which is a ---"

Page 2, line 4, after "No." insert --09/385,336--.

Page 6, delete line 5, and insert the following therefor:
--long stacks 42 of tickets (See Figure 2).--

Page 7, line 17, after "strip" insert --53-.

Page 8, line 5, change "33" to --31--, and after "slot"
insert -- 56--;

line 24, after "blades" insert -- 255--.

Page 9, line 1, substitute "blades 255" for --72--.

Page 9, line 9, delete "5 and 6" and insert therefor --
72--.

Page 10, line 12, replace [metal] with --metal--,

Page 10, line 24, after "ridge" insert -- like the ridge
101 shown in Fig. 8--.

Page 11, line 1, delete "114" and insert --114, 116 and
118--,

line 18, after "groove elements" insert --(not
shown)--.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Delete the first sentence starting with "Lottery ticket---" in line 1 and ending with "---module." in line 4. Also, delete the remainder of the Abstract starting with "A display of---" in line 8, and ending with "---- connected dispensers." in line 22.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 2-25.

Please add the following new claims 26-32.

--26. A countertop ticket display dispenser structure comprising:

(a) a housing having side walls and a top wall, and a ticket dispensing ticket outlet;

(b) a store checkout counter having a counter top with a customer side at which customers can stand, and a clerk side at which a clerk can stand;

(c) said top wall of said housing having a flat section at least as large as a typical bank check with a surface to enable a person to write a bank check on it;

(d) said housing having a transparent side wall portion through which said tickets can be seen from said customer side and a rear side wall portion in which said outlet opening is located;

(e) said housing being mounted adjacent said counter top with said front side wall facing said customer side, and said rear side wall portion facing said clerk side, and said top wall within easy reach of a customer standing at said customer side of said counter.

27. A dispenser structure as in Claim 26 including structure inside said housing for storing and holding said tickets so as to be visible through said transparent side wall portion, and for guiding said tickets towards said ticket outlet.

28. A dispenser structure as in Claim 26 in which said checkout countertop has an edge at said customer side, and a rail extending above said edge, and in which said transparent side wall portion extends over said rail closely adjacent said edge.

29. A dispenser structure as in Claim 26 in which said tickets are strip-form gaming tickets, a plurality of strips of said tickets being located and displayed side-by-side in said housing so as to be exposed to the view of the customer through said transparent side wall portion.

30. A dispenser structure as in Claim 26 in which said transparent side wall portion is hinged to open outwardly from said housing to permit access to the inside of said housing,

said rear side wall being hinged to permit access to said inside of said housing from the rear of said housing.

31. A dispenser structure as in Claim 29 including an outlet for each of said strips, each outlet being located near said top of said housing, including guide means for guiding the passage of said strips upwardly adjacent said transparent front side wall portion so as to display said ticket strips to said customers as said tickets move towards said outlets.

32. A dispenser structure as in Claim 26 including electronic means for indicating the number of tickets dispensed from said dispenser and storing said number in computer memory for use in accounting for ticket dispensing from said dispenser structure.--

33. A method of displaying and dispensing tickets from a dispensing structure at a store counter, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) mounting adjacent said store counter a dispensing structure having a housing with a substantially flat upper surface, a support structure for supporting said housing adjacent said store counter at a location reachable by a customer so as to enable said customer to write on a sheet positioned on said upper surface, and a transparent window positioned in said housing so as to enable said customer to see an array of tickets stored in said housing when said customer is

in a position to use said upper surface to support a sheet to write upon, and at least one ticket dispensing opening in said housing; and

(b) issuing from said housing a number of tickets ordered by said customer.

34. A method as in Claim 33 including using electronic means for indicating the number of tickets dispensed from said dispensing structure and storing said number in computer memory for use in accounting for tickets dispensed from said dispensing structure.

35. A method as in Claim 33 said store counter having a customer side and an opposite side at which a clerk is to be stationed, with said window facing said customer side and said dispensing opening directing tickets dispensed from said dispensing structure towards said opposite side of said counter, with said window adjacent said customer side of said counter.

36. A method as in Claim 34 including the step of using as said electronic means an input device selected from the group consisting of a computer keyboard, a keypad on a hand-held electronic device, and an on-line lottery game terminal to input the number and type of tickets dispensed.

37. A method as in Claim 33 in which said housing includes a ticket panel support structure, said tickets being formed in elongated strips in which tickets are delineated from one

another by lines of weakness, successive lengths of said strips being folded over on one another to form elongated panels, said support structure being utilized to support said panels at a substantial angle to horizontal.

38. A method as in Claim 35 in which said housing rests on said store counter and is provided with a relatively small footprint by making the ratio of the height of said housing above said upper surface to the length of said housing in a direction transverse to said counter where said housing rests on said upper surface is greater than or equal to one.

39. A method of utilizing a ticket dispenser located on a store countertop having a customer side and an opposite side,

(a) providing a ticket dispenser with a housing located adjacent said customer side of said countertop, said housing occupying a relatively small space on said countertop, said housing having a relatively flat upper surface suitable for supporting a check while it is being written, a window through which tickets can be seen by the customer at said customer side, and a dispenser outlet opening,

(b) placing a check on said relatively flat upper surface and filling it out,

(c) ordering tickets seen through said window for purchase, and

(d) dispensing said tickets through said outlet opening.--

REMARKS

The specification, drawings and Abstract have been amended for the sake of clarity and in order to conform them to the claimed invention.

A copy of the drawings with proposed changes marked in red accompanies this Amendment. These changes also have been made in the parent application. Approval of the changes is respectfully requested.

Claims like claims 26-32 were added by amendment in the parent application, and Claims 33-39 are new.

Claim 1 has been retained for the purposes of filing this divisional patent application, but can be cancelled by the Examiner which this application is taken up for action.

If a restriction requirement is deemed necessary, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney for a prompt resolution of the question.

It is respectfully requested that the claim of priority from Serial No. 09/385,336 be added to the Filing Receipt, if it is omitted from the filing receipt here as it was in the parent patent application.

An Action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure:
Marked UP Drawings